

BROADCAST 4188

DATE: April 4, 2007

TO: Local Department of Social Services Directors, Local Foster Care and Adoption Supervisors and Staff

FROM: Lynette Isbell, Acting Director, Division of Family Services
Therese Wolf, Foster Care Program Manager

SUBJECT: FY 2008 Foster Parent and Adoption Subsidy Rate Increase

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Effective July 1, 2007, foster family homes and adoption subsidy rates will increase by 13 percent. The new rates are as follows:

Age of Child	Room and Board	Clothing	Personal Care and Recreation	Monthly Allowance	Total Payment Rate
0 through 4	252	46	70	0	368
5 through 12	288	59	76	8	431
13 and over	349	93	81	23	546

The Appropriation Act (Item 357, Section D) requires the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) in conjunction with the Department of Planning and Budget to adjust maintenance rates based on inflation costs for raising a child in each fiscal year following the year when salary increases are provided for state employees. Since state employees received a raise in the budget of fiscal year (FY) 2007, funding has also been made available to increase foster parent board and adoption subsidy rates for FY 2008. In addition to the inflation adjustment, VDSS received specific funding to increase rates by 10 percent beginning in FY 2008. The annual clothing allowance is also increased to \$375 for children ages 5-12 and \$450 for children ages 13 and over. There is no increase or change to the \$300 clothing allowance available to children ages 0-4.

The basic rate increase is applicable to all local and private child placing agency foster homes. Funding to support the rate increase will be available to local departments of social services by July 1, 2007 and accessible through the LASER reimbursement system.

This rate increase does not apply to children's residential facilities, group home placements or independent living stipends.